

Forest-wide Direction (Components): Revision Collaborative Input: Designated Areas: RNA

Plan Components Research Natural Areas

Research Natural Areas				
Desired Condition	Objective	Standard	Guideline	Suitability
Research Natural Areas maintain a representation of natural systems found on the Nez Perce – Clearwater National Forest as a baseline for research, monitoring and education by the agency, academic and public interests. Fire, insects and pathogens along with other processes and disturbances continue to affect vegetation, reflecting the dynamic nature of systems they represent. RNAs contribute to ecological sustainability and biological diversity.	<p>Within 10 years of plan approval, complete the establishment of RNAs that represent all priority vegetation types as directed in the most current Regional assessment.</p> <p>Within 10 years of plan approval, identify and complete the establishment of RNAs that represent other desired unique ecological features or elements.</p> <p>Within 5 years of plan approval, complete the establishment of the Rhodes Peak RNA and the Fenn Mountain RNA.</p> <p>Within 5 years of plan approval complete the expansion of the Bull Run RNA.</p> <p>Within 5 years of the plan, complete the identified adjustment of the Deadman unit boundary of the Lochsa RNA.</p>			FSM 4063 outlines suitable and unsuitable management activities in RNAs.

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Distinctive Role/Other Management Direction

Future RNA designation and establishment should follow the vegetation prioritization outlined in the *Research Natural Areas of the Northern Region: Status and Needs Assessment*.

To aid in future RNA identification and designation, consult other resource specialist to identify and prioritize ecological features (terrestrial and aquatic) or other elements that may be appropriate for inclusion. An additional source of supplementary direction would be the *Representativeness Assessment of Research Natural Areas on national Forest Systems Lands in Idaho*.

Identify occurrences of small or incidental vegetative types in existing RNAs or RNAs to be established as identified in the *Research Natural Areas of the Northern Region: Status and Needs Assessment*.

RNAs are co-managed by the National Forest System and the Forest Service Research branch (FSM 4063).

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	05/18/2013 Component Input for Designated Areas: RNA NOTE: All input done in Large Group (no small working group break out sessions)		FS Response
	Desired Future Condition: No Input		
	Objectives: 10 years seems too long to complete est/designation; why wait? Obj #1: Clarify "all"		<p>There are no specific resources allocated to complete this work, thus designation will only occur as opportunities arise. It is hopeful, yet uncertain that 10 years will be sufficient to complete this work given its lower priority.</p> <p>"All" refers to the three high priority and 11 moderate priority vegetation types cited in the <i>Research Natural Areas of the Northern Region: Status and Needs Assessment</i>.</p> <p>The word "all" has</p>

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			been removed to allow more flexibility.
	Standards:		
	Guidelines:		
	Suitability: Add language re: existing uses		Taking account of existing uses in selection and management is included in FMS 4063, particularly sections 4063.2 and 4063.3.